

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Computer implemented method for computing demand forecast information for a demand forecast application capable of being graphically represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of at least two branches directly emanating therefrom each branch of the plurality of branches having at least one node with a time series of observations associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~providing~~ a database for storing time series of observations;

(b) ~~providing~~ at least two computer servers for each independently ~~capable of~~ computing demand forecast information for one or more branches of the plurality of branches ~~an entire branch~~ of the demand forecast tree; [and]

analyzing a computational demand for each branch of the plurality of branches by determining a number of bottom-level nodes comprising each branch;

allocating each branch of the plurality of branches to a task of a plurality of tasks such that a total computational demand for each task of said plurality of tasks is substantially equal among said plurality of tasks, wherein the total computational demand for each task is determined by adding the computational demands for each branch that is allocated to the task of the plurality of tasks;

(c) ~~computing~~ demand forecast information from said observations stored in said database using one of said at least two computer servers for at least ~~one~~ a first branch of said plurality of branches ~~of said two branches~~ of the demand forecast tree; and

(d) ~~simultaneously with said one computer server computing demand forecast information from said observations stored in said data base computing demand forecast information from said observations stored in said data base using said other of said at least two~~

computer servers for at least a second branch of said plurality of branches ~~two branches~~ of the demand forecast tree.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein each task of the plurality of tasks includes and further comprising the steps of: (e) allocating each and every branch of the demand forecast tree to a task including one or more allocated branches for execution on a single computer server of the at least two computer servers where the same computer server computes the demand forecast information for an entire portion of each task.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 and further comprising the steps of [(f)] determining the number of tasks as the product of the number of computer servers available for computing demand forecast information and a user entered value indicating an average number of tasks the one computer server of said at least two computer servers will process.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) Computer implemented system for computing demand forecast information for a demand forecast application capable of being graphically represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of at least two branches directly emanating therefrom each branch of the plurality of branches having at least one bottom node with a time series of observations associated therewith, the system comprising:

- (a) a database server for storing time series of observations; and
- (b) a forecast engine including

two or more computer servers each computer server having a computer capacity to compute demand forecast information for one or more branches of the plurality of branches ~~an entire branch~~ of the demand forecast tree and connectable to said database server so as to retrieve selected ones of said observations, and

a computer manager that;

analyzes a computational demand for each branch of the plurality of branches by determining a number of bottom-level nodes comprising each branch;

allocates each branch of the plurality of branches to a task of a plurality of tasks such that a total computational demand for each task of said plurality of tasks is substantially equal among said plurality of tasks, wherein the total computational demand for each task is determined by adding the computational demands for each branch that is allocated to the task of the plurality of tasks; and

assigns said two or more computer servers to simultaneously compute demand forecast information for at least two branches of the demand forecast tree, each computer server computing demand forecast information for at least one said branch.

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 5 wherein each task of the plurality of tasks includes said computer manager for allocating each and every branch allocating to a task including one or more allocated branches for execution on a single computer server of the at least two computer servers where the same computer server computes the demand forecast information for an entire portion of each task.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 6 wherein the computer manager determines the number of tasks as the product of the number of computer servers available for computing demand forecast information and a user entered value indicating an average number of tasks the one computer server of said at least two computer servers will process.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) Computer implemented method for computing demand forecast information for a demand forecast application capable of being graphically represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of branches directly emanating therefrom, each branch of the plurality of branches having at least one node with a time series of observations associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

~~(a)~~ providing a database for storing time series of observations;

~~(b)~~ providing a plurality of computer servers, each computer server independently capable of computing demand forecast information for one or more branches of the plurality of branches ~~an entire branch~~ of the demand forecast tree, wherein the number of provided computer servers is less than the number of branches; ~~and~~

analyzing a computational demand for each branch of the plurality of branches by determining a number of bottom-level nodes comprising each branch;

~~(c)~~ allocating each one of the plurality of provided computer servers for processing one or more branches such that all of said branches have been allocated among said provided computer servers and such that a total computational demand associated with each computer server is substantially equal among said plurality of provided computer server, wherein the total computational demand associated with each computer server is determined by adding the computational demands for each allocated branch;

~~(d)~~ computing with each provided computer server demand forecast information from observations stored in said data base.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9 wherein said step of computing demand forecast information is done simultaneously by said plurality of provided computer servers.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein said step of allocating each one of the plurality of provided computer servers comprises allocating each one of the plurality of provided computer servers such that the expected computing time for each computer server is substantially equal.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)